

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056826

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 056826 ACTION MANAMA INFO SECDEF CNO
MAR 13:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ASCH, BA, US

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN SCHOOL TUITION

REF: STATE 041679

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, DURING 1973 GAO CONDUCTED REVIEW OF DOD OVERSEAS DEPENDENTS SCHOOL SYSTEM AND CONCLUDED THAT TUITION AND DORMITORY FEES CHARGED AT BAHRAIN SCHOOL FOR NON-DOD DEPENDENTS WERE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER COSTS OF EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES PROVIDED. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE WERE ABLE TO AVOID SUBSTANTIAL HIKE IN TUITION AND DORMITORY FEES FOR THESE STUDENTS -- A MOVE LIKELY TO PRODUCE COMPLICATIONS FOR EMBASSY AND MIDEASTFOR -- ON BASIS THAT USDESEA WAS MAKING UP FOR BAHRAIN LOSSES ELSEWHERE IN ITS SYSTEM.

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2. THE PROBLEM REMAINS WITH US, HOWEVER. IN JANUARY,

DOD/OSD (M AND RA) COMPLETED REPORT WHICH INCLUDES CALCULATION OF TOTAL PER-PUPIL COSTS FOR STUDENTS AT BAHRAIN SCHOOL FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1973-74 AS FOLLOWS: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DOLS 1,442.61; SECONDARY SCHOOL - DOLS 1,294.06; DORMITORY - DOLS 3,773.28.

3. BASED UPON THESE AND OTHER SUPPORTING DATA, REPORT GOES ON TO RECOMMEND THAT USDESEA CONTINUE OPERATING BAHRAIN SCHOOL FOR FY 1976 AS KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE INSTITUTION, PLUS DORMITORY, BUT THAT IT SHOULD QUOTE COST OUT SCHOOL BY ITSELF RATHER THAN INCLUDING IT IN USDESEA COMPUTATION AS IS CURRENT PRACTICE. UNQUOTE. REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT QUOTE: EACH NON-DOD STUDENT WOULD PAY HIS PROPORTIONAL SHARE OF EDUCATIONAL COST MINUS ANY AMOUNTS SPENT DURING SCHOOL YEAR BY BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST. AN ADDITIONAL COST WOULD BE COMPUTED FOR NON-DOD STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DORMITORY MINUS ANY AMOUNTS SPENT BY TRUST. UNQUOTE.

4. DOD/OSD (ISA) CONCURS WITH THE COST INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE REPORT, BUT WE AGREE WITH THAT OFFICE THAT FOREIGN POLICY IMPACT OF ANY TUITION INCREASE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISION IS MADE IN THIS REGARD. REPORT ESTIMATES PER PUPIL COSTS FOR FY 1976 AS FOLLOWS: ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DOLS 1,550; SECONDARY SCHOOL - DOLS 1,400; DORMITORY - DOLS 3,800.

5. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL INCREASES. THESE WILL HIT LOCAL NON-DOD DAY STUDENTS WHICH WE BELIEVE INCLUDE THOSE MOST LIKELY TO HAVE TROUBLE PAYING NEW FEES AND WHO WOULD THUS BE LIKELY TO GENERATE PROBLEMS FOR US. WE ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE DORMITORY FEE HIKE IN THAT MAJORITY OF NON-DOD DORMITORY STUDENTS ARE SUBSIDIZED BY THEIR PARENTS' EMPLOYERS.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON (A) IMPACT LOCALLY IN BAHRAIN OF TUITION AND DORMITORY INCREASES ON ORDER OF MAGNITUDE DESCRIBED IN PARA 4 ABOVE, AND (B) LIKLIHOOD THAT BAHRAIN SCHOOL TRUST MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DEFRAY CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF ANY NEW TUITION INCREASES THAT MAY BE INSTITUTED FOR FY 1976. INGERSOLL
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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